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## Kennedy Hails Role of CIA

President Kennedy has given the Nation flat assurance that the Central Intelligence Agency has not carried out independent activities in South Viet Nam.

John H. Richardson, CIA chief in Saigon, recalled reportedly under some sort of cloud last week end, is "a very dedicated public servant," Mr. Kennedy told his news conference last evening. He operated under close control of CIA Director John McCone, the President added.

He referred, however, to the "transfer" of Mr. Richardson indicating the controversial figure would not return to Saigon.

A search of the record in the last nine months shows the CIA

has done nothing but support agreed policies in South Viet Nam, Mr. Kennedy reported. "It does not create policy," he emphasized, "it attempts to execute it in those areas where it has competence and responsibility."

Moreover, the CIA director, the United States Ambassador, Henry Cabot Lodge, and the Secretaries of State and Defense are now in agreement on policy in Viet Nam. If there is disagreement at lower levels, he speculated, this would be because "they are not wholly informed of what actions we are taking. Some of them are necessarily confidential."

Reports the CIA undercut United States policy in Viet Nam are "wholly untrue" the President declared.

"While the CIA may have made mistakes," he added, "as we all do, on different occasions, and has had many successes which may go unheralded, in my opinion in this case it is unfair to charge them as

they have been charged. I think they have done a good job."

No new congressional watchdog committee is needed to keep an eye on the CIA, in the President's opinion, because those Congressional groups now watching CIA expenditures are doing an adequate job.

The President also assured the Nation that the United States continues to oppose military coups in Latin America.

Coups are "self-defeating and defeating for the Hemisphere" he said.

Both the Dominican Republic and Honduran governments have recently been overturned by coups.